

Copy of Memo to Various Professional Leaders. . .
May 16, 2026 – Rev May 18, 2026
Earl F. Burkholder, PS, PE, F.ASCE
Global COGO, Inc. – Las Cruces, NM 88003

It is my conviction that information posted at <http://www.globalcogo.com/Foot.html> be considered as part of the discussion about revisions to the NM State Plane Coordinate System law (to accommodate the new SPCS2022).

Of many things to be said, please know that I am philosophically attuned to history, tradition, and not changing things that do not need to be changed.

That said, I am also committed to the role of the surveyor (and surveying) as a successful contributing member of multi-disciplinary teams found in many endeavors - we surveyors are not the only ones affected by the international foot discussion - the spatial data user community is huge and growing!

If I had my way, the U.S. Survey Foot issue would have been addressed with publication of the NAD83 - but somehow, the can was kicked down the road in the 1980s in deference to those arguing that states rights prevail. I can't contest that - in fact, I wholeheartedly support the states' rights concept.

But, professionally and states' rights aside, I am convinced that the international foot should be adopted in support of the greater good - it simply is the right thing to do. The U.S. Survey Foot will continue forever as a legacy unit (and can be used as such in standard professional practice).

I'll be happy to contribute to a healthy discussion with all due respect to all who participate.